**PROPOSED BILL NO:** **FINAL VOTE:** Y N NP

**NAME OF PROPOSED BILL:** Bill to ban Breed-Specific Legislation, or the law to discriminate certain dog breeds.

**ENACTMENT NO: DATE:** January 24, 2015

**NAME OF LEGISLATION:** Breed-Specific Legislation Ban

**Sponsor:** Eve Allen

**Co-Sponsor:** David Shinaver

**Opposition Leader:**

**Summary:**

Dogs deserve to be valued no matter what their breed may be. A dog’s breed does not affect their actions. The way a dog is raised can cause harm if cared for and trained to be aggressive.

**Background**:

Breed-specific legislation refers to laws that pertain to dogs based on their breed. These laws are typically a reaction to incidents with dogs (especially pit-bulls) used for illegal fighting purposes.

**FACTS:**

1. Animal owners deserve the freedom to adopt any breed of dog.
2. People sometimes fear certain breeds due to negative press and inaccurate statistics, yet they are uneducated about why a dog may truly behave indecently.
3. This bill will protect dogs that are essentially waiting to die based on their breed, and not by anything that they have done.
4. Breed-specific legislation cannot accurately and fully be enforced, therefore it is ineffective.

**PROS:**

1. Dogs can be treated equally and not neglected due to their breed.
2. Owners can have a right to adopt any breed they choose. There are pit-bulls waiting to be euthanized simply due to the overpopulation and criminalization of their breed, and potential owners can save a life.
	1. Having the choice to adopt a so-called “dangerous” breed means a decreased risk of adopters who plan on using a dog for illegal fighting.
3. Individuals can be educated as to why breed-specific legislation exists in the first place instead of solely going along with what the general public thinks about certain breeds.
	1. Certain breeds are blamed for injury and death simply because of what the media presents. When victims continue to accuse a breed based on what they see in the media, it causes flawed statistics.
4. There will be more rescue and therapy dogs available.
5. Innocent dogs and owners will not be punished due to a breed. Some victims of dog attacks are due to the abuse inflicted on a dog. This has nothing to do with the breed, but how the dog was raised.

**Cons:**

1. There is a risk of injury and death for humans and other animals due to any breed being raised improperly or developing aggressive behavior over time.
2. Dogs can be euthanized due to their actions and humans can be imprisoned due to ownership.
3. The public may fear certain dogs even more due to an owner’s freedom to raise any breed they choose.
	1. There will be a higher risk for people to raise “dangerous” breeds for illegal fighting.

**DETAILS:**

**WORKING AMENDMENTS:**

**FINAL VOTE ON BILL:**

**APPENDICES:**

**NOTES:**